# MARCH 1986
# ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

**Alaska Department of Labor** **Bill Sheffield, Governor, State of Alaska**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 287.44 | $1315.09 | 120 | 1192.46 |
| 930.63 | 909.09 | 1 | 989.26 |
| ~~519.43~~ 516.43 | 503.69 | 38 | 515.82 |
| 275.89 | 303.83 | 5049 | 323.61 |
| 606.12 | 606. | 609.51 | 656.48 |
| 538.61 | 54 | 574.53 | 557.98 |
| 384.95 | 0.28 | 381.42 | 391.78 |
| 482.06 | ~~515.27~~ 509.29 | 504.38 | 531.22 |
| 350.72 | 346.97 | 336.22 | ~~345.10~~ 340.96 |
| 394.59 | 432.95 | 419.85 | ~~459.46~~ 445.84 |
| | | | |
| 24.20 | 25.16 | 23.55 | 23.52 |
| ~~20.62~~ 23.62 | 24.05 | 24.05 | 23.61 |
| 14.84 | 13.29 | 13.25 | 13.26 |

## 1985 Benchmark Revisions

# Alaska Economic Trends

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Labor Force by Region and Census Area Center Insert

## Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries 1/ 2/

| | Average Hourly Earnings | | | Average Weekly Hours | | | Average Weekly Earnings | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | P/ 12/85 | R/ 11/85 | 12/84 | P/ 12/85 | R/ 11/85 | 12/84 | P/ 12/85 | R/ 11/85 | 12/84 |
| Mining | | | | | | | | | |
| Construction | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | | | | | | | | | |
| Food & Kindred Prod. | | | | | | | | | |
| Lumber & Paper Prod. | | | | | | | | | |
| Trans., Comm. & Pub.Util. | | | | | | | | | |
| Trade | | | | | | | | | |
| Wholesale | | | | | | | | | |
| Retail | | | | | | | | | |
| Finance, Ins. & R.E. | | | | | | | | | |

1. Program in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2. Excludes mining and fishery establishments.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS DATA: Average weekly hours refer to the number of hours for which pay was received, and are for production workers in manufacturing industries and for nonsupervisory workers in nonmanufacturing industries. Average weekly earnings refer to gross earnings before payroll deductions.

**The following notes pertain to Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Tables:**

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark date March 1984.

P Denotes preliminary estimates.
R Denotes revised estimates.

# Revised Employment, Hours and Earnings and Labor Force Data

**By Ed Eboch**

Each January, nonagricultural employment estimates are revised for the proceeding eighteen months by a procedure referred to as **benchmarking**. The revised employment estimates for 1985 have just been completed. The monthly estimates of employment published in *Alaska Economic Trends* are based on a sample of employers. The most comprehensive count of employment is based on unemployment insurance tax reports, commonly referred to as ES-202 data. There is a six to nine month lag in collection and publication of this information. As a result, monthly employment is estimated from a sample of firms willing to participate in the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The willingness of firms to provide data makes it possible to produce reliable estimates of nonagricultural wage and salary employment on a timely basis.

Revised estimates for 1985 have been completed and incorporate ES-202 data through June 1985. The CES estimates were surprisingly good when compared to the benchmark estimates; total annual average nonagricultural employment was estimated at 231,000 versus the benchmark number of 231,400. The estimates tracked the actual very closely through the last six months of 1984. In early 1985 the transfer of the Alaska Railroad resulted in some slight overestimates for January and February. From March on total employment estimates tracked the benchmark numbers closely, only gradually lagging behind the benchmark numbers.

The greatest estimating error was in the services industry, where the annual average estimates were 1,000 below the benchmark figure, and retail trade, 600 below benchmark. Although our estimates indicated a healthy employment growth rate of 3.5% in services and an increase of 3.4% in retail trade, these were below the benchmark growth rates of 5.6% and 5.0% respectively. The only other industry for which the estimates were out of line with the benchmark numbers was government. The transfer of the Alaska Railroad caused an overestimation in federal government employment of 300. Local government was also overestimated 300 for 1985.

This year we have included a revised hours and earnings series as well as revised unemployment rates with our benchmark employment estimates. Both series had a change in methodology used to calculate the data. The major change in estimating unemployment was the incorporation of 1984 and 1985 population data for disaggregating the

regional unemployed to the census divisions. For a detailed description of the hours and earnings changes see the Hours and Earnings section at the end of this publication. In addition, the hours and earnings estimates have a better sample and both series incorporate the benchmark employment numbers.

**Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment**
**By Place of Work**
**ALASKA**

1985

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 225100 | 225300 | 227400 | 229500 | 232200 | 234000 | 240300 | 242200 | 244900 | 235500 | 228900 | 224500 | 231400 |
| Mining | 9500 | 9500 | 9400 | 9600 | 9500 | 9500 | 9700 | 9700 | 9600 | 9600 | 9300 | 9100 | 9400 |
| Construction | 14300 | 14400 | 15500 | 15900 | 16700 | 16900 | 23500 | 24300 | 23500 | 21500 | 18900 | 14900 | 18600 |
| Manufacturing | 6900 | 7800 | 8400 | 9000 | 10100 | 14300 | 21400 | 19300 | 14000 | 9600 | 9100 | 8000 | 11800 |
| Food & Kindred Prod. | 2200 | 2800 | 3300 | 4200 | 6400 | 8600 | 15100 | 13300 | 7900 | 3700 | 3500 | 2800 | 6100 |
| Lumber & Paper Prod. | 1800 | 1800 | 2000 | 2400 | 2900 | 2700 | 2600 | 2300 | 2400 | 2200 | 2100 | 1800 | 2200 |
| All Other Mfg. | 2900 | 3200 | 3300 | 3400 | 3900 | 3900 | 3700 | 3700 | 3700 | 3600 | 3500 | 3400 | 3500 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 17500 | 17400 | 17700 | 18600 | 19600 | 20600 | 20500 | 20700 | 20300 | 19200 | 18600 | 18300 | 19100 |
| Trucking & Wrhsng. | 2200 | 2200 | 2300 | 2300 | 2200 | 2400 | 2400 | 2400 | 2300 | 2100 | 2200 | 2100 | 2300 |
| Water Transportation | 1300 | 1100 | 1200 | 1400 | 1500 | 1500 | 1600 | 1400 | 1600 | 1400 | 1200 | 1200 | 1400 |
| Air Transportation | 5300 | 5200 | 5300 | 5300 | 6400 | 6600 | 6600 | 6700 | 6400 | 6300 | 6000 | 5900 | 6100 |
| Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 8900 | 8900 | 8900 | 9600 | 9600 | 9700 | 9700 | 9700 | 9800 | 9400 | 9200 | 9100 | 9300 |
| Trade | 43200 | 42700 | 43000 | 44800 | 45900 | 48200 | 49000 | 49600 | 47700 | 47400 | 47200 | 47000 | 46300 |
| Wholesale | 8400 | 8300 | 8400 | 8600 | 8800 | 9000 | 9000 | 8900 | 8800 | 8700 | 8500 | 8500 | 8700 |
| Retail | 34800 | 34400 | 34600 | 36200 | 37100 | 39200 | 40000 | 39700 | 38900 | 38700 | 38700 | 38600 | 37600 |
| Gen. Mer. & Apparel | 5100 | 4800 | 4800 | 5000 | 5000 | 5600 | 5600 | 5700 | 5700 | 5700 | 5900 | 6000 | 5400 |
| Food Stores | 5900 | 5900 | 5700 | 6000 | 6100 | 6400 | 6600 | 6900 | 6400 | 6100 | 6300 | 6300 | 6200 |
| Eating & Drinking Pl. | 10900 | 10200 | 10400 | 11000 | 11600 | 11900 | 12400 | 11900 | 11900 | 11900 | 11800 | 11600 | 11500 |
| Other Retail Trade | 12100 | 11800 | 11900 | 12200 | 12400 | 12600 | 12900 | 12900 | 12800 | 12800 | 12700 | 12600 | 12500 |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | 11800 | 12000 | 12400 | 12600 | 12700 | 13000 | 13400 | 13400 | 13000 | 13000 | 12900 | 12700 | 12800 |
| Services & Misc. | 33300 | 33800 | 34000 | 34200 | 35100 | 36800 | 42400 | 42900 | 41900 | 42400 | 42100 | 41900 | 40000 |
| Government | 68900 | 68800 | 68900 | 69400 | 69400 | 69400 | 69400 | 69400 | 69700 | 69800 | 69800 | 69500 | 69400 |
| Federal | 17000 | 17000 | 17100 | 17200 | 17200 | 17200 | 17200 | 17200 | 17200 | 17600 | 17800 | 17900 | 17400 |
| State | 19500 | 19400 | 19300 | 19400 | 19400 | 19400 | 19400 | 19400 | 19700 | 20000 | 20400 | 20100 | 19700 |
| Local | 32400 | 32400 | 32500 | 32800 | 32800 | 32800 | 32800 | 32800 | 32800 | 32200 | 31600 | 31500 | 32300 |

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
By Place of Work
ANCHORAGE

1985

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Natural Resources & Mining | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mining | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Construction | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food & Kindred Prod. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Mfg. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trucking & Warehsg. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water Transportation | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Air Transportation | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trade | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wholesale | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retail | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gen. Merchandise | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food Stores | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eating & Drinking Pl. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Retail Trade | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Services & Misc. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Government | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Federal | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| State | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
By Place of Work
ANCHORAGE-MATSU

1985

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | **Annual Average** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 116500 | 116900 | 117350 | 118500 | 121600 | 124900 | 127400 | 126900 | 124700 | 123600 | 123400 | 122400 | 122600 |
| Mining | 4100 | 4200 | 4300 | 4300 | 4300 | 4300 | 4300 | 4300 | 4300 | 4200 | 4100 | 4000 | 4200 |
| Construction | 8300 | 8300 | 8500 | 8700 | 9000 | 9400 | 9600 | 9600 | 9400 | 9200 | 8900 | 7900 | 9700 |
| Manufacturing | 2800 | 2800 | 2900 | 2900 | 2900 | 3000 | 3000 | 3000 | 2900 | 2900 | 2800 | 2700 | 2900 |
| Trans Comm. & Utilities | 9500 | 9500 | 9600 | 9700 | 10000 | 10200 | 10400 | 10400 | 10300 | 10200 | 10000 | 9900 | 10100 |
| Trade | 27500 | 27400 | 27500 | 28000 | 29400 | 30100 | 30600 | 30700 | 30200 | 30000 | 29800 | 29600 | 29600 |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | 9400 | 9400 | 9400 | 9400 | 9500 | 9600 | 9600 | 9600 | 9500 | 9400 | 9400 | 9200 | 9200 |
| Services & Misc | 27500 | 27500 | 27600 | 27700 | 28000 | 28400 | 28600 | 28700 | 28400 | 27800 | 27750 | 27750 | 27800 |
| Government | 25200 | 25400 | 25500 | 25600 | 25400 | 25700 | 27000 | 27400 | 28000 | 29400 | 29400 | 29500 | 28000 |

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
By Place of Work
FAIRBANKS

1985

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 27,400 | 28,600 | 27,700 | 28,900 | 29,000 | 29,600 | 31,200 | 31,500 | 31,000 | 30,100 | 29,000 | 27,950 | 29,500 |
| Mining | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 150 | 200 |
| Construction | 2,500 | 2,600 | 2,900 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,100 | 3,200 | 3,200 | 3,100 | 3,000 | 2,900 | 2,600 | 3,100 |
| Manufacturing | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 550 | 600 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 2,800 | 2,800 | 2,800 | 2,800 | 2,800 | 2,800 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,800 | 2,700 | 2,900 |
| Trucking & Warehsg. | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 450 | 500 |
| Air Transportation | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 850 | 900 |
| Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Utilities | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 |
| Trade | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,200 | 5,000 | 5,200 |
| Wholesale | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Retail | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,000 | 5,100 |
| Gen. Mer. & Apparel | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Food Stores | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 |
| Other Retail Trade | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,800 |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Services & Misc. | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,300 | 3,400 |
| Government | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 |
| Federal | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 |
| State | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 |
| Local | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 |

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
By Place of Work
INTERIOR

1985

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 30900 | 30950 | 31000 | 32550 | 33250 | 34750 | 35400 | 35900 | 35650 | 34300 | 32650 | 31750 | 33200 |
| Mining | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 350 | 350 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| Construction | 1900 | 1900 | 2000 | 2200 | 2400 | 3100 | 4200 | 4300 | 3650 | 2750 | 2150 | 2100 | 2800 |
| Manufacturing | 500 | 500 | 500 | 600 | 600 | 650 | 650 | 650 | 650 | 650 | 550 | 550 | 600 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 2900 | 2900 | 2900 | 3000 | 3000 | 3200 | 3400 | 3500 | 3500 | 3300 | 3050 | 3000 | 3200 |
| Trade | 6000 | 6000 | 6000 | 6200 | 6500 | 7100 | 7250 | 7300 | 7100 | 6800 | 6550 | 6450 | 6600 |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1050 | 1050 | 1050 | 1050 | 1050 | 1100 | 1100 | 1100 |
| Services & Misc. | 5750 | 5800 | 5900 | 6000 | 6100 | 6600 | 6800 | 6900 | 6800 | 6600 | 6000 | 5950 | 6100 |
| Government | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 |

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
By Place of Work
SOUTHEAST ALASKA

1985

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 28960 | 28430 | 28760 | 28950 | 29450 | 30630 | 31870 | 32010 | 31080 | 30440 | 28200 | 27400 | 29900 |
| Construction | 1150 | 1090 | 1130 | 1210 | 1280 | 1450 | 1550 | 1610 | 1470 | 1370 | 1260 | 1180 | 1600 |
| Manufacturing | 1900 | 1900 | 1950 | 2020 | 2140 | 2470 | 2720 | 2740 | 2420 | 2260 | 2020 | 2100 | 2200 |
| Food & Kindred Prod | 430 | 400 | 390 | 410 | 440 | 1020 | 1260 | 1280 | 1040 | 690 | 430 | 440 | 900 |
| Lumber & Paper Prod | 1300 | 1300 | 1380 | 1430 | 1520 | 1270 | 1280 | 1260 | 1210 | 1390 | 1410 | 1480 | 1300 |
| All Other Mfg | 170 | 200 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 170 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 200 |
| Trans, Comm, & Utilities | 1650 | 1730 | 1750 | 1840 | 1970 | 2080 | 2140 | 2150 | 2040 | 2010 | 1840 | 1740 | 2000 |
| Trade | 4100 | 4080 | 4150 | 4190 | 4310 | 4490 | 4610 | 4630 | 4430 | 4360 | 4160 | 4110 | 4300 |
| Wholesale | 390 | 380 | 390 | 390 | 410 | 430 | 440 | 440 | 420 | 410 | 400 | 390 | 400 |
| Retail | 3710 | 3700 | 3760 | 3800 | 3900 | 4060 | 4170 | 4190 | 4010 | 3950 | 3760 | 3720 | 4100 |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | 1090 | 1090 | 1090 | 1090 | 1100 | 1090 | 1090 | 1090 | 1090 | 1090 | 1090 | 1090 | 1100 |
| Mining, Services & Misc | 4200 | 4250 | 4300 | 4410 | 4600 | 4790 | 4900 | 4910 | 4810 | 4670 | 4360 | 4230 | 4500 |
| Government | 9460 | 9290 | 9380 | 9280 | 9550 | 9660 | 9860 | 9880 | 9730 | 9640 | 9330 | 9250 | 12500 |
| Federal | 1960 | 1870 | 1900 | 1880 | 1920 | 1940 | 1980 | 1980 | 1960 | 1940 | 1910 | 1870 | 2500 |
| State | 3500 | 3420 | 3460 | 3400 | 3500 | 3560 | 3640 | 3650 | 3590 | 3560 | 3440 | 3420 | 5000 |
| Local | 4000 | 4000 | 4020 | 4000 | 4130 | 4160 | 4240 | 4250 | 4180 | 4140 | 3980 | 3960 | 5000 |

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
By Place of Work
GULF COAST

1985

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonagr. Wage & Salary | 20700 | 20900 | 20900 | 20900 | 21000 | 21000 | 21000 | 21000 | 20900 | 20900 | 20900 | 19900 | 21000 |
| Mining | 700 | 700 | 700 | 700 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 |
| Construction | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 | 1850 | 2000 |
| Manufacturing | 3100 | 3100 | 3100 | 3100 | 3100 | 3100 | 3100 | 3100 | 3100 | 3100 | 3100 | 3050 | 3200 |
| Food & Kindred Prod | 2500 | 2500 | 2500 | 2500 | 2500 | 2500 | 2500 | 2500 | 2500 | 2500 | 2500 | 2500 | 2500 |
| All Other Mfg | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 550 | 700 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 1700 | 1700 | 1700 | 1700 | 1700 | 1700 | 1700 | 1700 | 1700 | 1700 | 1700 | 1700 | 1800 |
| Trade | 3800 | 3800 | 3800 | 3800 | 3800 | 3800 | 3800 | 3800 | 3800 | 3800 | 3800 | 3800 | 3800 |
| Wholesale | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Retail | 3300 | 3300 | 3300 | 3300 | 3300 | 3300 | 3300 | 3300 | 3300 | 3300 | 3300 | 3300 | 3300 |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Services & Misc. | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 3200 | 3150 | 3200 |
| Government | 5500 | 5500 | 5500 | 5500 | 5500 | 5500 | 5500 | 5500 | 5500 | 5500 | 5500 | 5400 | 5500 |
| Federal | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| State | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 550 | 600 |
| Local | 4400 | 4400 | 4400 | 4400 | 4400 | 4400 | 4400 | 4400 | 4400 | 4400 | 4400 | 4350 | 4400 |

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**
**BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS**
**ALASKA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**
**BY REGION AND CENSUS AREA**

| | 1/85 | 2/85 | 3/85 | 4/85 | 5/85 | 6/85 | 7/85 | 8/85 | 9/85 | 10/85 | 11/85 | 12/85 | 1985 Annual Average | 1984 Annual Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska Statewide | 11.3 | 11.3 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 9.4 | 9.0 | 9.5 | 7.9 | 7.1 | 8.4 | 9.0 | 10.0 | 9.5 | 10.1 |
| Anch-MatSu Region | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.2 | 9.1 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.1 | 6.4 | 7.0 | 7.9 | 8.4 | 8.2 | 8.1 |
| Anchorage Borough | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 7.6 | 7.4 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 5.9 | 6.4 | 7.1 | 7.7 | 7.4 | 7.5 |
| Mat-Su Borough | 10.9 | 10.7 | 10.7 | 10.2 | 10.9 | 10.2 | 9.1 | 8.4 | 8.0 | 8.9 | 10.0 | 10.1 | 11.8 | 12.4 |
| Gulf Coast Region | 14.6 | 15.1 | 13.7 | 13.6 | 12.9 | 9.9 | 9.4 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 10.6 | 12.4 | 13.4 | 11.8 | 12.5 |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough | 16.1 | 17.0 | 15.2 | 15.0 | 13.5 | 10.4 | 9.8 | 9.1 | 8.9 | 11.5 | 13.7 | 14.7 | 12.4 | 13.9 |
| Kodiak Island Borough | 9.5 | 9.6 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 9.1 | 7.1 | 6.8 | 5.6 | 5.2 | 6.5 | 8.1 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 9.4 |
| Valdez-Cordova | 14.5 | 15.4 | 14.1 | 13.6 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 10.2 | 9.4 | 9.2 | 9.8 | 10.4 | 11.2 | 10.2 | 9.6 |
| Interior Region | 13.0 | 14.7 | 13.8 | 13.8 | 13.0 | 11.4 | 12.0 | 10.6 | 9.7 | 10.8 | 12.0 | 13.3 | 12.2 | 12.9 |
| Fairbanks North Star Bor. | 9.5 | 9.7 | 9.0 | 9.1 | 8.7 | 7.6 | 7.8 | 7.1 | 6.2 | 7.1 | 7.9 | 8.5 | 8.2 | 8.1 |
| Southeast Fairbanks | 13.3 | 13.9 | 13.6 | 13.6 | 13.1 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 9.9 | 8.9 | 9.6 | 11.2 | 12.1 | 9.3 | 9.1 |
| Yukon Koyukuk | 18.4 | 19.8 | 18.4 | 18.0 | 16.7 | 15.7 | 16.6 | 15.1 | 14.1 | 15.4 | 15.8 | 16.7 | 15.8 | 17.1 |
| Northern Region | 13.3 | 13.4 | 12.1 | 11.8 | 9.1 | 11.0 | 10.6 | 10.1 | 9.2 | 10.3 | 10.4 | 10.7 | 10.7 | 10.8 |
| Kotzebue | 15.8 | 16.1 | 14.8 | 14.2 | 10.6 | 12.8 | 12.3 | 11.7 | 10.7 | 12.0 | 12.1 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 12.1 |
| Nome | 13.4 | 13.5 | 12.0 | 12.0 | 10.2 | 12.0 | 11.5 | 11.0 | 10.0 | 11.2 | 11.3 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 12.1 |
| North Slope Borough | 7.9 | 7.9 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 5.5 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.0 | 5.3 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.9 |
| Southeast Region | 14.2 | 13.7 | 11.7 | 10.1 | 7.1 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 5.1 | 7.0 | 8.7 | 9.6 | 8.6 | 9.5 |
| Haines Borough | 12.1 | 12.1 | 10.2 | 9.8 | 6.9 | 7.6 | 8.0 | 7.1 | 6.6 | 7.5 | 8.4 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 9.3 |
| Juneau Borough | 12.8 | 12.5 | 9.4 | 8.3 | 6.2 | 4.7 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 6.8 | 7.6 | 6.9 | 8.5 |
| Ketchikan Gateway Bor. | 15.3 | 14.9 | 13.8 | 12.5 | 9.3 | 8.7 | 7.7 | 7.1 | 6.6 | 8.1 | 9.6 | 10.9 | 9.9 | 10.0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan | 18.7 | 16.6 | 14.4 | 13.6 | 12.3 | 9.6 | 11.7 | 10.6 | 10.5 | 16.0 | 15.7 | 15.1 | 13.6 | 15.6 |
| Sitka Borough | 11.5 | 10.7 | 8.3 | 7.8 | 7.0 | 7.4 | 9.4 | 11.8 | 11.0 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 11.1 | 9.6 | 10.1 |
| Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon | 22.5 | 23.0 | 20.3 | 17.7 | 12.8 | 11.3 | 9.0 | 7.2 | 5.4 | 8.1 | 13.8 | 14.3 | 13.8 | 15.2 |
| Wrangell-Petersburg | 17.0 | 17.3 | 15.2 | 11.7 | 10.6 | 10.3 | 7.1 | 5.0 | 6.5 | 8.9 | 11.5 | 15.0 | 11.2 | 16.5 |
| Southwest Region | 8.7 | 8.4 | 10.1 | 10.1 | 7.2 | 8.4 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 6.4 | 7.3 | 8.9 | 8.1 | 9.6 |
| Aleutian Islands | 3.4 | 2.8 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 5.4 |
| Bethel | 9.6 | 9.8 | 11.8 | 11.6 | 8.4 | 10.7 | 8.6 | 12.6 | 10.3 | 8.4 | 8.9 | 10.8 | 10.1 | 11.6 |
| Bristol Bay Borough | 13.8 | 11.1 | 12.6 | 9.6 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 4.5 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 8.0 | 9.4 |
| Dillingham | 11.2 | 9.9 | 11.1 | 10.5 | 7.7 | 6.9 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 6.1 | 7.4 | 8.6 | 7.5 | 8.2 |
| Wade Hampton | 10.4 | 10.7 | 13.7 | 14.9 | 10.6 | 12.6 | 7.6 | 12.4 | 9.6 | 7.9 | 9.4 | 11.4 | 10.7 | 12.1 |

Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey (CPS) in formulas used to allocate federal funds. Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor because Alaska's CPS sample size is inadequate to accurately indicate monthly changes in level. The sampling errors are random in nature, meaning that the unemployment rates in any given month are as likely to be high as frequently as they are low. The official definitions of unemployment currently in place exclude anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four week period up to and including the week that includes the twelfth of each month. Most economists feel that Alaska's bush localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

1985

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mining | $1047.44 | $1031.09 | $1033.40 | $1067.40 | $1030.75 | $1039.60 | $1024.22 | $1025.69 | $1020.73 | $1021.68 | $1040.28 | $1039.74 | $1024.70 |
| Construction | 630.62 | 630.69 | 1014.11 | 994.08 | 986.41 | 970.24 | 950.73 | 941.14 | 1137.36 | 1119.87 | 918.97 | 662.96 | 1017.18 |
| Manufacturing | 518.43 | 520.09 | 522.56 | 525.82 | 527.53 | 518.45 | 424.80 | 547.34 | 550.94 | 568.72 | 473.02 | 437.14 | 496.13 |
| Food & Kindred Prod | 372.49 | 370.81 | 369.42 | 373.61 | 376.13 | 381.74 | 433.61 | 422.86 | 423.23 | 408.84 | 221.57 | 239.85 | 339.18 |
| Lumber & Paper Prd | 600.62 | 600.62 | 600.62 | 600.62 | 600.62 | 600.62 | 600.62 | 600.62 | 600.62 | 600.62 | 600.62 | 600.62 | 600.62 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 598.62 | 598.62 | 598.62 | 598.62 | 598.62 | 598.62 | 598.62 | 598.62 | 598.62 | 598.62 | 598.62 | 598.62 | 598.62 |
| Trade | 345.46 | 345.46 | 345.46 | 345.46 | 345.46 | 345.46 | 345.46 | 345.46 | 345.46 | 345.46 | 345.46 | 345.46 | 345.46 |
| Wholesale | 420.46 | 420.46 | 420.46 | 420.46 | 420.46 | 420.46 | 420.46 | 420.46 | 420.46 | 420.46 | 420.46 | 420.46 | 420.46 |
| Retail Trade | 300.46 | 300.46 | 300.46 | 300.46 | 300.46 | 300.46 | 300.46 | 300.46 | 300.46 | 300.46 | 300.46 | 300.46 | 300.46 |
| Finance Ins & R E | 344.62 | 344.62 | 344.62 | 344.62 | 344.62 | 344.62 | 344.62 | 344.62 | 344.62 | 344.62 | 344.62 | 344.62 | 344.62 |

## AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mining | 21.81 | 21.48 | 21.52 | 22.23 | 21.46 | 21.66 | 21.34 | 21.36 | 21.26 | 21.28 | 21.67 | 21.65 | 21.34 |
| Construction | 15.77 | 15.77 | 16.88 | 16.62 | 16.50 | 16.23 | 15.90 | 15.75 | 19.03 | 18.73 | 15.37 | 11.08 | 17.01 |
| Manufacturing | 12.96 | 13.00 | 13.06 | 13.14 | 13.19 | 12.96 | 10.62 | 13.68 | 13.77 | 14.22 | 11.83 | 10.93 | 12.40 |
| Food & Kindred Prod | 9.31 | 9.27 | 9.23 | 9.34 | 9.40 | 9.54 | 10.84 | 10.57 | 10.58 | 10.22 | 5.54 | 5.99 | 8.48 |
| Lumber & Paper Prd | 15.02 | 15.02 | 15.02 | 15.02 | 15.02 | 15.02 | 15.02 | 15.02 | 15.02 | 15.02 | 15.02 | 15.02 | 15.02 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.97 | 14.97 |
| Trade | 8.64 | 8.64 | 8.64 | 8.64 | 8.64 | 8.64 | 8.64 | 8.64 | 8.64 | 8.64 | 8.64 | 8.64 | 8.64 |
| Wholesale | 10.51 | 10.51 | 10.51 | 10.51 | 10.51 | 10.51 | 10.51 | 10.51 | 10.51 | 10.51 | 10.51 | 10.51 | 10.51 |
| Retail Trade | 7.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 | 7.51 |
| Finance Ins & R E | 8.62 | 8.62 | 8.62 | 8.62 | 8.62 | 8.62 | 8.62 | 8.62 | 8.62 | 8.62 | 8.62 | 8.62 | 8.62 |

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS
1985

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mining | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Construction | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food & Kindred Prod. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lumber & Paper Prd. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trade | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wholesale | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retail Trade | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Finance, Ins. & R.E. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

# Alaska

**By John Boucher**

## Annual Average CPIs

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the most frequently used statistic among the thousands generated by the federal government. It is widely accepted as the most accurate measure of the change in the average consumers 'cost of living'. As such, it is commonly used as an escalator in contracts, leases, and government entitlement programs. The release of the annual average CPI is generally a high interest event because of the monetary implications it carries.

The CPI for Anchorage is produced only in the odd numbered months during the calendar year. No CPI is produced for any other community or area within Alaska. The annual average percentage change in the CPI is the best available measurement of price change because it takes into account an entire year of price data. We discourage the use of anything but the annual percentage change in the CPI because of the fluctuations that tend to occur when using a comparison of the current year's bimonthly data to the data from the same period of the previous year. Using a comparison between bimonthly periods to measure the annual change in prices has some serious methodological flaws. For a discussion on the proper use of the CPI please refer to the October 1984 issue of *Alaska Economic Trends* or Chapter VIII of the February 1986 *Alaska Planning Information*.

There are two CPIs published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), and the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). These two CPIs are based upon different 'market baskets' of goods and are therefore separate measurements. The CPI-U is generally more widely used because it approximates the buying habits of 80% of the population while the CPI-W approximates the buying patterns of 40% of the population.

One final note that is of importance to regular users of the Anchorage CPI. Beginning in January of 1987 the BLS is planning to discontinue publishing the Anchorage CPI bimonthly. Due to budgetary constraints as well as sample requirements, the CPI for Anchorage will only be published twice yearly beginning in January 1987. For further information on the CPI contact the following address:

Alaska Department of Labor
Research & Analysis: LMI
PO Box 25501
Juneau, AK 99802-5501

The Anchorage CPI-U increased by 2.4% on an annual average basis during 1985. Anchorage's CPI-U increase compared favorably to the increase in the U.S. Cities' average which was 3.6% for 1985. The Anchorage CPI-W experienced a slightly higher increase in 1985 than the CPI-U, increasing at a 2.9% rate. The Anchorage CPI-W was also less than the comparable national rate, which was 3.5% for 1985. Following is a table tracking the changes in the CPI-U in Anchorage and the U.S. since 1980.

**Anchorage and U.S. Cities CPI-U Since 1980**

| | Anchorage | | U.S. Cities | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Index Number | Percent Change | Index Number | Percent Change |
| 1980 | 228.2 | 10.2% | 246.8 | 13.5% |
| 1981 | 246.5 | 8.0% | 272.4 | 10.4% |
| 1982 | 260.2 | 5.6% | 289.1 | 6.1% |
| 1983 | 264.7 | 1.7% | 298.4 | 3.2% |
| 1984 | 275.6 | 4.1% | 311.1 | 4.3% |
| 1985 | 282.3 | 2.4% | 322.2% | 3.6% |

**Current Trends**

The unemployment rate for the state increased one and three-tenths percentage points in the month of January to 11.5%. (see center insert) January and February tend to have the highest rates of unemployment according to historical patterns and although the unemployment increase was high it compares favorably to three of the last five January unemployment rates. Layoffs in the construction and retail trade industries generally occur right after the Christmas holiday and that tends to drive the rate of unemployment up. The retail trade and construction industries each lost 2,100 jobs from January to December which conforms to this historical pattern.

## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
## By Place of Work
## Alaska

| | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 | Changes From: 12/85 | 1/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Mining | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Construction | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Manufacturing | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Food & Kindred Prod. | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Lumber & Paper Prod. | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| All Other Mfg. | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Trucking & Wharfing | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Water Transportation | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Air Transportation | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Trade | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Wholesale | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Retail | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Gen. Mer. & Apparel | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Food Stores | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Eating & Drinking Pl. | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Other Retail Trade | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Services & Misc. | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Government | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Federal | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| State | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Local | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Government includes teachers in privately and secondary schools and personnel employed by the University of Alaska

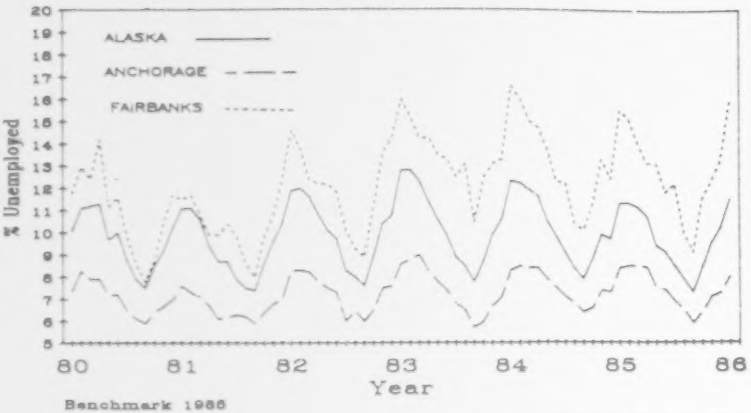
Benchmark Date: March 1985

P/ Denotes Preliminary Estimates
R/ Denotes Revised Estimates

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

1980 to Present



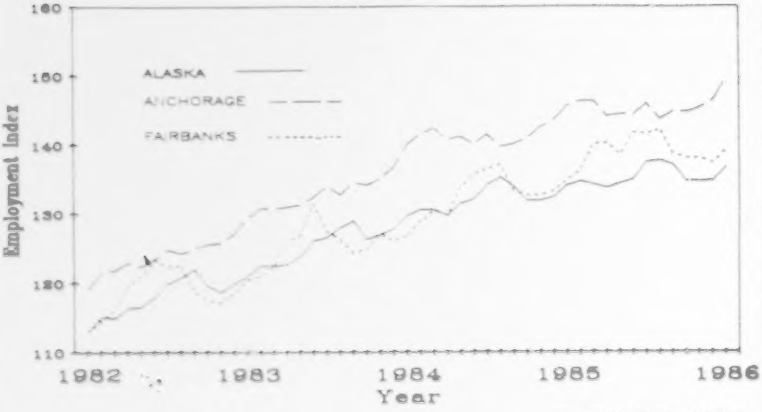

Benchmark 1986

source: Ak. Dept. of Labor

## Composite Nonag. Employment Indexes

Seasonally Adjusted

1982 to Present




source: Ak. Dept. of Labor

# Anchorage/MatSu

**By Greg Huff**

## Charactertistics of Anchorage's Unemployed

In 1985 over $37 million in unemployment compensation was distributed to qualified Anchorage unemployed workers. This equates to an average weekly payment of $160.07 per claimant for an average 15.5 week duration. However, not all unemployment insurance claimants receive the same size unemployment check nor do they collect unemployment compensation for the same length of time. The weekly benefit amount is determined by the worker's previous earnings and the number of dependents. The greater the earnings, and the greater the number of dependents, the larger the payments. The smallest weekly unemployment check is $38 and the maximum is $188 with an additional $24 per dependent, up to three dependents.

The maximum time allowed for receiving regular benefits is 26 weeks while an additional 13 weeks of extended benefits may be received depending upon past record of earnings, length of employment, and Alaska's insured unemployment rate. Extended benefits in 1985 were in effect when Alaska's insured unemployment rate rose above 6.0%, which was most of the year. Only during the late summer months did the rate fall below this threshold.

Anchorage accounted for 28% of total unemployment compensation distributed in Alaska during 1985. This figure, when compared to Anchorage's proportion of total statewide employment of nearly 50%, illustrates Anchorage's relative advantage for employment opportunities over most other labor markets areas within the state.

In 1985 about 85% of the estimated number of unemployed in Alaska were covered by the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. The unemployed persons excluded from coverage are those not covered by the program, new entrants and reentrants to the labor force, and unemployed workers who have exhausted their benefits without having returned to work. In addition, people occasionally fail to file for benefits they were entitled to collect. The largest group of workers not covered under the plan are self-employed persons, fully commissioned salespersons, fishermen, agricultural workers and elected and appointed officials.

## Industry Characteristics

Former employees of the construction industry accounted for over 31% of all UI claimants in 1985, receiving $103 million in UI benefits. This

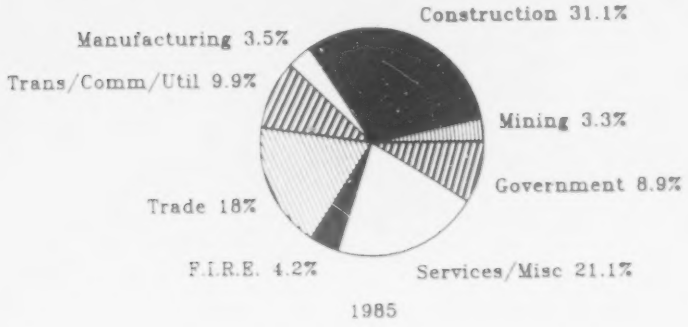
## Labor Force By Region and Census Area

| | Labor Force | | | Unemployment | | | Rate | | | Employment | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 |
| Alaska Statewide | 243577 | 247985 | 236236 | 27926 | 25228 | 26778 | 11.5 | 10.2 | 11.3 | 215651 | 222767 | 209458 |
| Anch-MatSu Region | 133313 | 135518 | 129433 | 12266 | 11284 | 12216 | 9.2 | 8.3 | 9.4 | 121047 | 124264 | 117217 |
| Anchorage Borough | 116375 | 118516 | 113200 | 9315 | 8710 | 9527 | 8.0 | 7.3 | 8.4 | 107060 | 109906 | 103673 |
| MatSu Borough | 16938 | 16902 | 16233 | 2951 | 2644 | 2689 | 17.4 | 15.1 | 16.6 | 13987 | 14358 | 13544 |
| Gulf Coast Region | 24842 | 25971 | 23378 | 3893 | 3750 | 3356 | 15.7 | 14.4 | 14.4 | 20949 | 22221 | 20022 |
| Kenai Peninsula Bor | 15809 | 16375 | 14739 | 2851 | 2631 | 2375 | 18.0 | 16.1 | 16.1 | 12958 | 13744 | 12384 |
| Kodiak Island Bor | 5546 | 5956 | 5333 | 493 | 596 | 504 | 8.9 | 10.0 | 9.5 | 5053 | 5359 | 4829 |
| Valdez-Cordova | 3487 | 3641 | 3286 | 549 | 523 | 477 | 15.7 | 14.4 | 14.5 | 2938 | 3118 | 2809 |
| Interior Region | 36933 | 37221 | 36143 | 5730 | 4771 | 5414 | 15.5 | 12.8 | 15.0 | 31203 | 32450 | 30729 |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | 30029 | 30213 | 29380 | 4814 | 3990 | 4547 | 16.0 | 13.2 | 15.5 | 25215 | 26223 | 24833 |
| Southeast Fairbanks | 2952 | 2958 | 2894 | 405 | 409 | 386 | 13.7 | 13.8 | 13.3 | 2547 | 2549 | 2508 |
| Yukon-Koyukuk | 3952 | 4050 | 3869 | 511 | 472 | 481 | 12.9 | 11.7 | 12.4 | 3441 | 3578 | 3388 |
| Northern Region | 7695 | 8032 | 7754 | 814 | 803 | 679 | 10.6 | 10.0 | 8.8 | 6881 | 7229 | 7075 |
| Kobuk | 2398 | 2446 | 2430 | 245 | 233 | 216 | 10.2 | 9.3 | 8.9 | 2153 | 2252 | 2214 |
| Nome | 3259 | 3350 | 3297 | 357 | 332 | 344 | 11.9 | 9.9 | 10.4 | 2872 | 3018 | 2953 |
| North Slope Borough | 2038 | 2187 | 2027 | 182 | 238 | 119 | 8.9 | 10.9 | 5.9 | 1856 | 1949 | 1908 |
| Southeast Region | 30949 | 31291 | 30181 | 4281 | 3764 | 4300 | 13.8 | 12.0 | 14.2 | 26668 | 27487 | 25881 |
| Haines Borough | 1018 | 1000 | 1026 | 186 | 143 | 219 | 18.3 | 14.3 | 21.3 | 832 | 857 | 807 |
| Juneau Borough | 11992 | 12145 | 11479 | 1344 | 1273 | 1242 | 11.3 | 10.5 | 10.8 | 10648 | 10872 | 10237 |
| Ketchikan Gateway Bor | 6609 | 6646 | 6505 | 931 | 794 | 995 | 14.1 | 11.9 | 15.3 | 5678 | 5852 | 5510 |
| Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan | 2370 | 2351 | 2312 | 433 | 364 | 432 | 18.3 | 15.1 | 18.7 | 1937 | 1997 | 1880 |
| Sitka Borough | 3750 | 3826 | 3621 | 448 | 423 | 417 | 11.9 | 11.1 | 11.5 | 3302 | 3403 | 3204 |
| Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon | 1926 | 1865 | 1942 | 375 | 266 | 436 | 19.5 | 14.3 | 22.5 | 1551 | 1599 | 1506 |
| Wrangell-Petersburg | 3384 | 3418 | 3296 | 564 | 917 | 559 | 16.7 | 15.0 | 17.0 | 2820 | 2907 | 2737 |
| Southwest Region | 9848 | 10002 | 9347 | 942 | 886 | 813 | 9.6 | 8.9 | 8.7 | 8903 | 9116 | 8534 |
| Aleutian Islands | 2250 | 2316 | 2159 | 74 | 88 | 73 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 2176 | 2228 | 2086 |
| Bethel | 3865 | 3969 | 3657 | 412 | 433 | 347 | 10.7 | 10.9 | 9.5 | 3453 | 3536 | 3310 |
| Bristol Bay Borough | 404 | 389 | 384 | 58 | 35 | 53 | 14.4 | 9.0 | 13.8 | 346 | 354 | 331 |
| Dillingham | 1736 | 1719 | 1656 | 201 | 147 | 165 | 11.6 | 8.6 | 11.2 | 1535 | 1572 | 1471 |
| Wade Hampton | 1590 | 1609 | 1491 | 197 | 183 | 155 | 12.4 | 11.4 | 10.4 | 1393 | 1426 | 1336 |

P/ Preliminary R/ Revised 1985 Benchmark

Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey (CPS) in formulas used to allocate federal funds. Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor, because Alaska's CPS sample size is inadequate to accurately indicate monthly changes in level. The sampling errors are random in nature, meaning that the unemployment rates in any given month are as likely to be high as frequently as they are low. The official definitions of unemployment, currently in place, exclude anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four week period up to and including the week that includes the twelfth of each month. Most economists feel that Alaska's bush localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

## Anchorage Unemployment Insurance Claimants Industry Characteristics




1985

industry produced the largest group of unemployed workers claiming UI benefits. The construction industry's share of total employment in 1985 was less than 9.0%, but due to the extreme seasonal and cyclical nature of the industry, it had a disproportionate number of workers collecting unemployment benefits.

On the other end of the scale, government workers accounted for 8.9% of the claimants and benefits paid, while representing 23% of total Anchorage employment, illustrating government's stable employment characteristics. The distribution of claimants from other industries were at nearly the same proportions as their employment share.

Claimants last employed in the transportation, communications and utilities sector received the highest benefit amount averaging $2,342 per claimant compared to $1,886 for the overall average and $1,885 for construction workers. This greater average benefit is a result of higher average earnings and more stable work history.

### Occupational Characteristics

The construction industry is again proportionately overrepresented in the occupational categories of the unemployed. The majority of construction workers are classified as structural workers, and out of the total number of claimants, 33.6% were contained in this category. The next largest group of claimants were from the clerical and professional/technical/management occupational categories respectively. Although the shares are large, they represent a smaller proportion

**Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment**
**By Place of Work**
**Anchorage**

| | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 | Changes From: 12/85 | 1/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 112000 | 114300 | 108850 | -2300 | 3150 |
| Mining | 4300 | 4000 | 4100 | 300 | 200 |
| Construction | 6450 | 7300 | 7500 | -850 | -1050 |
| Manufacturing | 2250 | 2600 | 2200 | -350 | 50 |
| Food & Kindred Prod. | 250 | 500 | 250 | -250 | 0 |
| Other Mfg. | 2000 | 2100 | 1950 | -100 | 50 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 9450 | 9650 | 8950 | -200 | 500 |
| Trucking & Whseing. | 1100 | 1200 | 1150 | -100 | -50 |
| Water Transportation | 300 | 300 | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| Air Transportation | 3650 | 3800 | 3100 | -150 | 550 |
| Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 4400 | 4350 | 4400 | 50 | 0 |
| Trade | 27750 | 28950 | 26200 | -1200 | 1550 |
| Wholesale | 6400 | 6500 | 6350 | -100 | 50 |
| Retail | 21350 | 22450 | 19850 | -1100 | 1500 |
| Gen. Merchandise | 2000 | 2250 | 1700 | -250 | 300 |
| Food Stores | 3050 | 3300 | 2900 | -250 | 150 |
| Eating & Drinking Pl. | 7850 | 8350 | 7300 | -500 | 550 |
| Other Retail Trade | 8450 | 8550 | 7950 | -100 | 500 |
| Finance-Ins. & R.E. | 8650 | 8650 | 8350 | 0 | 200 |
| Services & Misc. | 26850 | 26400 | 25800 | 450 | 1050 |
| Government | 26400 | 26850 | 25750 | -450 | 650 |
| Federal | 9800 | 9850 | 9750 | -50 | 50 |
| State | 6950 | 7450 | 6900 | -500 | 50 |
| Local | 9650 | 9550 | 9100 | 100 | 550 |

**Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment**
**By Place of Work**
**Anchorage-MatSu**

| | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 | Changes From: 12/85 | 1/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 119400 | 122300 | 115500 | -2900 | 3900 |
| Mining | 4300 | 4000 | 4100 | 300 | 200 |
| Construction | 7000 | 7950 | 8100 | -950 | -1100 |
| Manufacturing | 2350 | 2700 | 2300 | -350 | 50 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 10150 | 10350 | 9550 | -200 | 600 |
| Trade | 29650 | 31000 | 27750 | -1350 | 1900 |
| Finance-Ins. & R.E. | 9050 | 9050 | 8900 | 0 | 150 |
| Services & Misc. | 28600 | 27750 | 26950 | 850 | 1650 |
| Government | 28650 | 28850 | 27850 | -200 | 1000 |

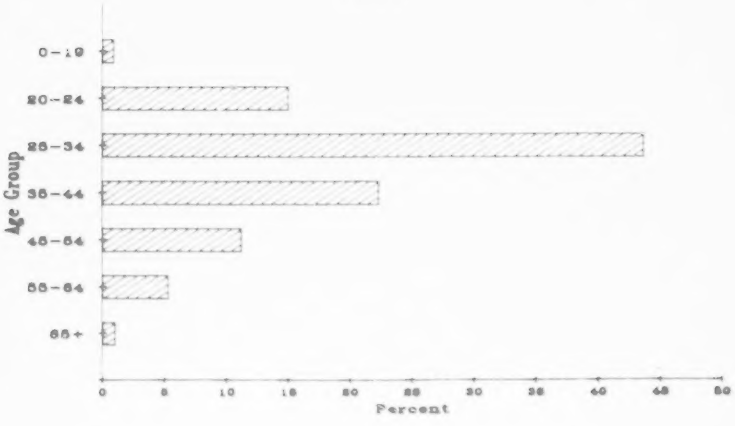
of UI claimants than the proportion they represent of total employment.

## Sex and Age Characteristics

Anchorage unemployment insurance claimants in 1985 were, as has been the historical case, predominantly male. Although men represent 52% of the labor force they represent 70% of all UI claims. Men tend to dominate occupations and industries with greater seasonal and cyclical influences. For example, 96% of the claimants with occupations in construction were men.

Nearly 43.5% of all Anchorage UI claimants in 1985 were between 24 and 34 years old although they represent only 36% of the total labor force. This group of workers tend (particularly those in the lower age group) to be less attached to the labor force than older workers and therefore experience more unemployment. Generally, younger workers have less experience and seniority, hence they are the first to go during layoffs. The workers younger than 24 usually has even less experience and seniority and therefore are even more susceptible to unemployment, but in many cases they do not qualify for unemployment benefits because a large proportion are students who do not qualify to receive UI benefits.

Anchorage Unemployment Insurance Claimants
Age Characteristics
1985



The average total benefits received also vary according to age. Generally the older the worker the greater the unemployment payments. This is due to longer work history, greater earnings and more dependents. For example workers 19 to 24 years old received an average of $1,388 in total benefits in 1984, while workers 25 to 34 years old received $1,860 and workers 35 to 44 years old $2,098. However, claimants older than 55 received less than the lower age category ($1,904) reflecting the decline in the number of dependents.

**Anchorage Current Trends**

In January seasonally induced layoffs are at a peak. Construction employment continues to fall from the seasons high, large layoffs occur in the retail trade sectors due to the passing of the Christmas buying season, and many are temporarily laid off from the state education system (University of Alaska - Anchorage and Anchorage Community College) during the Christmas and New Year break.

The unemployment rate rose from 7.3% in December to 8.0% in January. However, the January 1986 rate is lower than the year ago January rate of 8.4%. This can be attributed to the total number of unemployed being slightly less than last years total due to laid off workers leaving the Alaska job market.

# Fairbanks/Interior

**By Neal Fried**

## Unemployment in the Doyon Region

In 1985, $3.5 million in unemployment insurance benefits was paid to unemployment claimants in the Doyon region. The Doyon region as defined in this article excludes Fairbanks. For information on Fairbanks see the February issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*. In this article we will discuss some of the characteristics of the region's unemployment claimants.

### Background

Before discussing unemployment insurance claimant characteristics, it should be made clear that not all of the unemployed in the Doyon region qualify as unemployment insurance claimants. To be eligible for unemployment insurance, a person must be covered by the state unemployment insurance program. Ninety-nine percent of today's employees working for wages and salaries are covered.

The largest group not covered in the region are the self-employed. Others not covered are fishermen, fully commissioned salespersons, domestic workers, and elected and appointed officials. Another group not included in these statistics are unemployed persons no longer receiving benefits and discouraged workers. Discouraged workers are people not attempting to find work because they believe there is none available and therefore are not counted as unemployed. To be considered unemployed, a person must be actively seeking work. This group is probably significant because the number of discouraged workers is estimated to be large in Alaska's rural areas.

Unemployment insurance claimants do not all receive the same amount of UI benefits nor do they collect unemployment compensation for the same length of time. The weekly benefit amount is determined by the worker's previous earnings. The smallest weekly unemployment check is $38 and the maximum is $188. An additional $24 per dependent up to three dependents can be added to this weekly benefit amount. Therefore, the maximum weekly unemployment check a worker can possibly receive is $260.

The length of time an individual can collect unemployment benefits is determined by the steadiness of the claimant's previous work history. The duration of benefits ranges from 16 to 26 weeks. The extended benefit program can lengthen the duration of unemployment benefits up to a maximum of 13 additional weeks.

**Doyon's Experience**

Average unemployment check and benefit duration in the Doyon region is far from the maximum. The Doyon claimant's average unemployment check was $140 and the average duration was 16 weeks. Statewide the average unemployment check was $154 and duration was 15 weeks. Because unemployment insurance claimants do not earn enough nor work steadily enough to receive the maximum benefits, or because the claimant finds new employment before their benefits run out, individuals usually receive less benefits than the maximum.

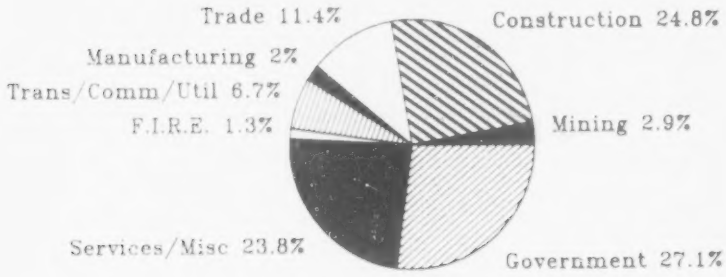
**Sex and Age Characteristics**

Seventy-two percent of all unemployment claimants were men and more than 50% were 34 years of age or younger. Initially these results were surprising, but not when one considers the kind of work in which men and younger workers are concentrated in is considered. Men dominate seasonal industries such as construction. Women tend to concentrate in more stable industries and occupations. The younger worker is also more highly concentrated in the seasonal industries. Younger workers tend to change jobs more often and have more difficulty finding work because they have less experience. The younger worker, because of lack of seniority, usually gets laid off first if a reduction in employment occurs.

**Industry and Occupational Characteristics**

Unlike most areas of the state, government was the last employer for the largest number of workers who had been laid off. Government is typically cited as an example of stable, nonseasonal, noncyclical employment, and in most cases this is a well-earned reputation.

## Doyon Region
## Unemployment Insurance Claimants
## Industry Characteristics




1985

However, in many of Alaska's smaller communities, government has become a major employer of construction crews as a result of large state capital budgets and local government assistance. This means the Doyon region's government sector has been affected by the seasonality and cyclical nature of construction. In spite of this, government remains underrepresented, for this industry employs 56% of the Doyon region's wage and salary employment but only represents 27% of the unemployed. In the occupational categories, construction occupations represented 46% of the unemployed.

The service industry was also represented by a large share of the unemployment claimants. The service industry employs 8% of the area's wage and salary work force. One sector which contributes to the service industry's share of the unemployed is tourism. The service sector is heavily reliant on tourism, a seasonal activity. Most of the remaining occupational and industry categories are relatively underrepresented among unemployment insurance claimants. The remaining industries and occupations tend to be less seasonal than construction, and therefore experience lower rates of unemployment.

### Summary

The 'typical' unemployment claimant could be characterized as a young male construction worker; however, unemployment leaves no industry or occupation untouched. In a region where employment is scarce and extremely seasonal, unemployment insurance has made

it easier for individuals to tide themselves over during these periods of unemployment. This income provides more economic stability to the region.

**Current Trends**

Fairbanks' wage and salary employment fell in January responding to seasonal factors. Construction employment continued its decline; retail establishments reduced their workforce after the peak Christmas season; the finance, insurance and real estate and services industries experienced lower employment levels; and the University of Alaska employees were laid off temporarily during the Christmas and New Year break.

When workers are laid off the unemployment rate rises. In January, Fairbanks' rate rose 2.8 percentage points to 16.0%, among the highest in the state and .5 percentage points above last January's rate. In all, out of the labor force of 30,000, over 4,800 workers were unemployed and actively seeking work in January, nearly 300 workers more than last year.

On the bright side, Fairbanks wage and salary employment continued to grow. Compared to January 1985 levels, employment is up 2.8%. Included in the employment gains were all major sectors of Fairbanks' economy except air transportation. Even construction showed some over the year employment increases.

## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
### By Place of Work
### Fairbanks

| | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 | Changes From: 12/85 | 1/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 27750 | 27950 | 26400 | -800 | 750 |
| Mining | 150 | 150 | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| Construction | 1850 | 1900 | 1750 | -150 | 100 |
| Manufacturing | 550 | 550 | 500 | 50 | 0 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 2750 | 2700 | 2800 | 50 | -50 |
| Trucking & Warehsg. | 500 | 450 | 500 | 50 | 0 |
| Air Transportation | 900 | 850 | 900 | 0 | -50 |
| Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 1400 | 1400 | 1400 | 0 | 0 |
| Trade | 6350 | 6350 | 6100 | -200 | 250 |
| Wholesale | 1650 | 1650 | 1650 | 0 | 0 |
| Retail | 4700 | 4700 | 4450 | -200 | 250 |
| Gen. Mer. & Apparel | 550 | 600 | 550 | 50 | 0 |
| Food Stores | 750 | 750 | 700 | 0 | 50 |
| Other Retail Trade | 3400 | 3350 | 3200 | -150 | 200 |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | 1000 | 1050 | 950 | -50 | 50 |
| Services & Misc. | 5600 | 5700 | 5500 | -100 | 100 |
| Government | 9450 | 9150 | 9150 | 300 | 300 |
| Federal | 2650 | 2650 | 2450 | 0 | 200 |
| State | 3900 | 4200 | 3850 | -300 | 50 |
| Local | 2900 | 2300 | 2850 | 0 | 50 |

## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
### By Place of Work
### Interior

| | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 | Changes From: 12/85 | 1/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 30950 | 31750 | 30450 | -1200 | 500 |
| Mining | 250 | 300 | 250 | -50 | 0 |
| Construction | 2900 | 3100 | 2850 | -200 | 50 |
| Manufacturing | 850 | 850 | 800 | 0 | 50 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 3050 | 3050 | 3100 | 0 | -50 |
| Trade | 6250 | 6400 | 6100 | -300 | 150 |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | 1050 | 1100 | 1000 | -50 | 50 |
| Services & Misc. | 5850 | 5950 | 5750 | -100 | 100 |
| Government | 11750 | 12000 | 11600 | -300 | 150 |

# Gulf Coast

**By Neal Fried**

## Unemployment on the Kenai Peninsula

January's unemployment rate was 18.0% for the Kenai Peninsula. The rate tells us that unemployment is high on the Peninsula and that the job market is extremely competitive, but it does not tell us much about the unemployed. In the following article we will identify the industries with the greatest unemployment, how long on average they remained unemployed, the major occupational and sex characteristics, the size of unemployment checks and the total amount of unemployment dollars that flowed into the Kenai Peninsula Borough during 1985.

### Background

Not all workers are eligible for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits when they lose their jobs. To be eligible for benefits a worker must be covered by the unemployment insurance program. Ninety-nine percent of today's wage and salary work force is covered. The largest groups on the Kenai Peninsula not covered by the program are the self-employed and fishermen. Others not covered are fully commissioned salespersons, domestic workers, agricultural workers and elected and appointed officials. Since the inception of the unemployment insurance program in Alaska in 1937, an increasing share of Alaska's labor force has been covered. Approximately 85% of the state's labor force is presently covered.

Unemployment insurance claimants don't receive the same amount of UI benefits on their unemployment check nor do they collect unemployment compensation for the same length of time. The weekly benefit amount is determined by previous earnings. The smallest weekly unemployment check is $38 and the maximum is $188. An additional $24 per dependent up to three dependents can be added to this weekly benefit amount. Therefore the maximum weekly unemployment check a worker can receive is $260.

The duration of benefits is determined by the claimant's previous work history. The duration of benefits ranges from 16 to 26 weeks. The extended benefit program can extend unemployment benefits up to a maximum of 13 additional weeks.

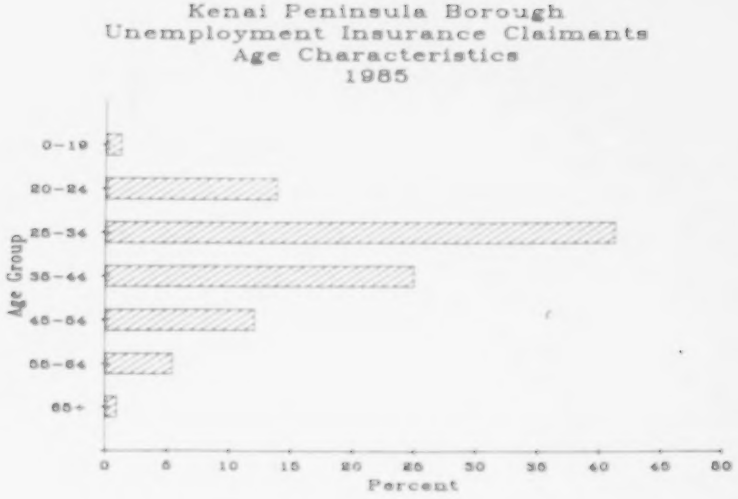
### Kenai Peninsula's Experience

Neither the Peninsula claimant's average weekly unemployment check nor duration of benefits came close to the maximum. The aver-

age regular weekly unemployment check on the Peninsula in 1985 was $148 and the duration was 15 weeks. Both of these figures were close to the statewide average. Peninsula residents represented 7% of all claimants statewide which is slightly larger than the Peninsula's share of wage and salary employment (5%). In 1985 $8.8 million was paid in unemployment insurance benefits to Kenai Peninsula residents. A total of $132 million was paid statewide.

## Sex Characteristics

Though women make up more than 37% of the Peninsula's labor force, 70% of all unemployment insurance claimants were men. This is because men dominate seasonal and cyclical industries such as construction where a disproportionate number of unemployment insurance claimants worked before losing their jobs. Women tend to be concentrated in stable occupational areas such as clerical, sales, managerial and professional categories.




## Age Characteristics

Kenai Peninsula's unemployment claimants are young, with 56% of them under 35. This comes as no surprise considering younger workers tend to be more highly concentrated in those industries such as construction and fish processing (manufacturing) which experience higher rates of unemployment. Younger workers also tend to be less

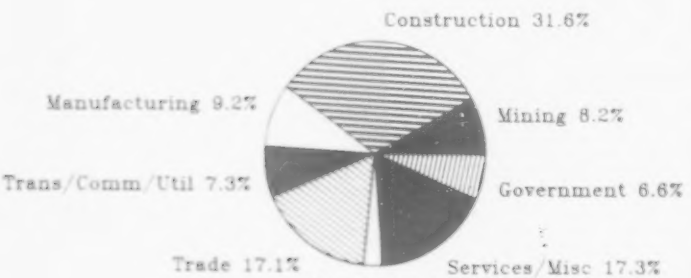
attached to the labor force because they change their jobs more often than the older worker. The younger workers also have less seniority, and during a period of layoffs, are often the first to go. The very young workers also have less work experience and therefore find it more difficult to find a new job.

## Industry Characteristics

Though only 10% of the Peninsula's wage and salary work force is employed in the construction industry, 32% of the unemployment claimants were employed in this industry before losing their jobs. Construction is disproportionately represented because of its seasonal and cyclical nature. The number of workers employed in this industry on the Peninsula can more than double over a one year period.

Surprisingly, another of the Peninsula's extremely seasonal industries, fish processing, is not overrepresented. Nine percent of the Peninsula's wage and salary employment are fish processing workers but only seven percent of the unemployment claimants were previously employed in this industry. This phenomenon exists because many of the fish processing workers leave the area when they become unemployed. They may be collecting unemployment insurance against wages they earned on the Peninsula in this industry, but they are collecting it elsewhere in the state or country.

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Unemployment Insurance Claimants
Industry Characteristics




1985

**Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment**
**By Place of Work**
**Gulf Coast**

| | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 | Changes From: 12/85 | 1/85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage & Salary | 18500 | 19600 | 17600 | -1100 | 900 |
| Mining | 750 | 800 | 700 | -50 | 50 |
| Construction | 1500 | 1850 | 1400 | -350 | 100 |
| Manufacturing | 1700 | 1950 | 1350 | -250 | 350 |
| Food & Kindred Prod. | 1250 | 1300 | 950 | -250 | 300 |
| All Other Mfg. | 650 | 650 | 600 | 0 | 50 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 1750 | 1750 | 1750 | 0 | 0 |
| Trade | 3700 | 3850 | 3450 | -150 | 250 |
| Wholesale | 500 | 500 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| Retail | 3200 | 3350 | 2950 | -150 | 250 |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | 650 | 650 | 600 | 50 | 0 |
| Services & Misc. | 3050 | 3150 | 2850 | -100 | 200 |
| Government | 5450 | 5600 | 5500 | -150 | -50 |
| Federal | 500 | 550 | 500 | -50 | 0 |
| State | 1450 | 1550 | 1500 | -100 | -50 |
| Local | 3500 | 3500 | 3500 | 0 | 0 |

One industry disproportionately underrepresented is government. Though government employs 23% of the Peninsula's wage and salary work force, only 9% of the unemployment claimants were previously employed in government, an indicator of a less seasonal and more stable employer.

## Occupational Characteristics

The occupational data closely correlates to the industry data. Occupations in construction (structural) leads with 42% of the claimants. Most of the other categories are representative of that industry's share of the labor force.

## Current Trends

Wage and salary employment in the Gulf Coast Region fell 1,100 jobs in January. Typically, January is a month with a large number of seasonal layoffs. All industries adjust employment levels to the slower economic period of the winter months. The retail industry reduces their staffing levels after the Christmas buying season and state government temporarily lays off education employees during the Christmas and New Year break.

As workers are laid off, the unemployment rate rises. The region's rate in January rose to 15.7%, 1.3 percentage points above the month-ago and year-ago rates. Despite the rather gloomy unemployment rates, the overall state of the region's economy is good. Wage and salary employment is 900 or 5.1% above last January's levels with most sectors experiencing over-the-year gains.

# Southeast Alaska

**By John Boucher**

## 1985: The Year In Review

For the second consecutive year, Southeast Alaska posted employment growth of slightly more than one half of one percentage point, continuing a recent pattern for Southeast Alaska. Nineteen eighty-five was an interesting year for the Southeast economy. While the low growth rate of 1984 was due to large movements within various industries offsetting one another, 1585's low growth rate was due to moderation of growth or declines in most industries. The rapidly contracting construction industry was the largest reason that employment growth within the region was not stronger.

### Construction

The construction industry experienced the only dramatic over the year change in employment, dropping 9.0% during the year. The 9.0% drop comes on the heels of a 10.1% drop that occurred in 1984, which meant that on an annual average basis, the Southeast Alaska construction industry has lost more than 350 jobs since it hit its peak in 1983. To put 1985 into an historical perspective, it was the third highest year for construction employment in the region ever, and at 5.7% of the total employment in the region, it represents a more sustainable level of construction related activity than the peak in 1983 represented.

**Construction and Southeast Employment**
**1980-1985**

| | Const. | Total Nonag. | Const. % of Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1980 | 1212 | 26710 | 4.5% |
| 1981 | 1428 | 27267 | 5.2% |
| 1982 | 1514 | 27884 | 5.4% |
| 1983 | 2017 | 28706 | 7.0% |
| 1984 | 1814 | 28875 | 6.3% |
| 1985 | 1681 | 29508 | 5.7% |

### Manufacturing

Perhaps the most encouraging and surprising industry in Southeast Alaska in 1985 was manufacturing. After posting five straight years of declining employment, manufacturing held steady during 1985. The lumber and paper products sector, which has been the primary cause

for the erosion of manufacturing employment during the past five years, remained stable during the year, the first time that the industry has been able to maintain the previous years level of employment since 1980. The food and kindred products sector enjoyed another strong salmon season but overall employment in seafood processing did not change dramatically. The other manufacturing category of the industry, which is primarily composed of newspaper and printing firms, showed little change during the year.

**Transportation, Communication & Utilities**

The transportation industry reversed a three year decline in 1985 as employment increased 2.5%. Three of the four sectors of the industry had steady over-the-year employment except for the other transportation sector, which increased 10.5%. This sector of the industry is dominated by ground transportation such as busses and other local passenger transportation. The introduction of a new bus company which competed for the summer tourist market was the single largest factor in this increase.

**Trade, Services**

For the past five years these two industry categories have made solid gains in employment growth, being among the leaders in annual employment growth in all five years. That changed in 1985 as trade employment, largely due to a decline in retail trade employment, experienced a 1.4% loss in employment during 1985. Services employment also experienced a contraction. This was due to the regions slowdown in income growth and an overly optimistic expansion of the retail sector in Juneau following the capital move vote.

**Finance, Insurance & Real Estate and Government**

By percentage, the finance, insurance and real estate sector was the region's strongest growth industries among the major industry groups. Government produced the highest number of additional jobs in Southeast during the year. The finance, insurance and real estate sector was buoyed by improved employment in Native corporations, as well as increases in the financial sector of the industry, which includes banks and credit unions. Government employment increases were due largely to increases in local government employment, predominantly in education.

**Current Trends**

Southeast Alaska wage and salary employment decreased by 600 jobs in the month of January to 26,800. The decline was spread across all industries with the lone employment gainer being government em-

**Southeast Alaska**
**Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment 1/**
**1984-1985**

| | 1984 | 1985 | Number Change | Percent Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nonag. Wage and Salary | 28875 | 29058 | 183 | 0.6% |
| Construction | 1814 | 1651 | -163 | -9.0% |
| Building Construction | 528 | 470 | -58 | -11.0% |
| Heavy Construction | 531 | 482 | -49 | -9.2% |
| Special Trades Const. | 755 | 699 | -56 | -7.4% |
| Manufacturing | 3008 | 3031 | 23 | 0.7% |
| Food & Kindred Products | 871 | 907 | 36 | 4.1% |
| Lumber & Paper Products | 1908 | 1910 | 2 | 0.1% |
| All Other Manufacturing | 229 | 215 | -14 | -6.1% |
| Trans. Comm & Utilities | 1950 | 1999 | 49 | 2.5% |
| Air Transportation | 469 | 464 | -5 | -1.1% |
| Water Transportation | 452 | 452 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Communications & Utilities | 639 | 642 | 3 | 0.5% |
| Other Trans. Comm & Utils | 391 | 432 | 41 | 10.5% |
| Trade | 4576 | 4514 | -52 | -1.4% |
| Wholesale Trade | 384 | 383 | -1 | -0.2% |
| Retail Trade | 4192 | 4131 | -61 | -1.5% |
| Food Stores | 838 | 845 | 7 | 0.8% |
| Eating & Drinking Places | 1243 | 1306 | 63 | 5.1% |
| Other Retail Trade | 2112 | 1979 | -133 | -6.3% |
| Finance-Ins. & Real Estate | 1047 | 1120 | 73 | 7.0% |
| Mining, Services & Misc | 4544 | 4505 | -39 | -0.8% |
| Mining | 35 | 45 | 10 | 28.6% |
| Hotel, Motel | 775 | 848 | 73 | 9.4% |
| Medical Services | 775 | 774 | -1 | 0.1% |
| Other Services | 2959 | 2838 | -121 | -4.1% |
| Government | 11936 | 12237 | 302 | 2.5% |
| Federal | 2087 | 2057 | -30 | -3.5% |
| State | 5461 | 5529 | 68 | 1.2% |
| Local | 4388 | 4651 | 263 | 6.0% |

Industry subtotals may not add due to rounding.

1/ 1985 annual average based on 6 months of actual data and 6 months of estimated data.

ployment. Construction employment was the largest employment loser, losing 350 jobs over the month. The unemployment rate continued to increase, rising to 13.8% in January. Last January the unemployment rate was 14.2%.

**Errata**

**Last month in this section of *Alaska Economic Trends* it was erroneously reported that the Louisiana-Pacific pulp mill announced a protracted shutdown of their facility in Ketchikan. Currently the Louisiana-Pacific pulp mill is open and will continue to operate indefinitely. We apologize for the error.**

# Hours and Earnings

**By Kathleen Thomas**

### New Procedure for Hours and Earnings

Beginning with January 1986 estimates, a new procedure will be instituted to calculate hours and earnings. Because the new methodology differs from the previously used one, a break in the data series will occur. To soften the transition, data for each month of 1985 has been calculated with the new method resulting in a one year overlap between the old and new methods (see Revised Employment, Hours and Earnings and Labor force Data, page 1 for the 1985 data). For January 1986, the new method will be used exclusively.

Data calculated by the new procedure will be more variable from month to month. The new procedure more quickly reflects changes in the sample results. Since the new method is more dependent on sample data, it will be critical for those using hours and earnings data to use the revised monthly data. Revised hours and earnings include a larger sample and therefore provide more reliable estimates.

In an effort to improve the data presented, average hourly earnings and average weekly hours for finance, insurance, and real estate are being calculated with the new method and will be available from January 1985 on. Other industries will remain unchanged.

If anyone requires additional information please contact: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis, P. O. Box 25501, Juneau, Alaska 99802-5501.

## Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries 1/ 2/

| | Average Hourly Earnings | | | Average Weekly Hours | | | Average Weekly Earnings | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 | P/ 1/86 | R/ 12/85 | 1/85 |
| Mining | 1180.58 | 1209.74 | 1287.44 | 51.7 | 51.8 | 53.2 | 22.95 | 23.49 | 24.20 |
| Construction | 856.83 | 962.36 | 930.63 | 37.6 | 39.8 | 39.4 | 22.78 | 24.18 | 23.62 |
| Manufacturing | 470.24 | 491.14 | 516.43 | 34.1 | 36.9 | 34.8 | 13.79 | 13.31 | 14.84 |
| Food & Kindred Prod. | 207.61 | 238.95 | 276.89 | 23.7 | 29.5 | 26.2 | 8.76 | 8.10 | 10.53 |
| Lumber & Paper Prod. | 598.65 | 883.40 | 908.21 | 42.6 | 43.7 | 37.1 | 13.38 | 13.35 | 16.34 |
| Trans. Comm. & Utilities | 572.42 | 564.20 | 538.61 | 36.6 | 36.5 | 36.1 | 15.64 | 15.46 | 14.92 |
| Trade | 404.94 | 384.43 | 384.95 | 33.3 | 33.4 | 33.1 | 11.83 | 11.51 | 11.63 |
| Wholesale | 559.49 | 516.23 | 462.06 | 37.6 | 37.3 | 34.8 | 14.88 | 13.84 | 13.28 |
| Retail | 294.54 | 349.62 | 359.75 | 31.8 | 32.1 | 32.6 | 10.82 | 10.58 | 10.96 |
| Finance Ins. & R.E. | 430.54 | 450.02 | 394.59 | 33.4 | 37.1 | 35.2 | 13.07 | 12.13 | 11.21 |

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics US Department of Labor.

2/ excludes eating and drinking establishments.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS SERIES: Averages are based on data for full and part time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.